

Message Text

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S E C R E T MONROVIA 0130

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TAGS: PFOR, AO, LI

SUBJ: PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD ON ANGOLA

REF: MONROVIA 0107

1. FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS GAVE ME PHOTOCOPY OF LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD HANDED BY PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO SPECIAL AMBASSADOR SPAULDING, HEAD OF USDEL TO TOLBERT'S INAUGURATION. FOLLOWING TEXT:

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I WAS PLEASED TO RECEIVE YOUR TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGE INFORMING ME OF YOUR VIEWS ON THE UNFORTUNATE AND DISTRESSING SITUATION IN ANGOLA AND ALSO TO LEARN FIRST HAND OF THE OBJECTIVE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN THAT COUNTRY. AS I HAVE ALWAYS ENDEAVOURED TO ADVOCATE THAT ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN WITH FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE PEACE AND PROGRESS OF AFRICA AND THE WORLD, THE LINE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN INTERESTED WORLD LEADERS PARTICULARLY YOU AND ME SHOULD BE COMPLETELY OPEN, I WISH TO STATE MY OWN THINKING ON THIS FRATRICIDAL CONFLICT.

MY GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY CONCERNED AND DISTURBED THAT AFTER SOME 500 YEARS OF COLONIALISM, THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE, IN SPITE OF THEIR RECENTLY WON INDEPENDENCE AFTER A PROTRACTED PERIOD OF STRUGGLE, ARE STILL DENIED THE BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND UNITY AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF PROGRESS. WHILE THIS SITUATION IS IN PART A RESULT OF THE FAILURE OF THE THREE NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS

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TO UNITE AND CONSOLIDATE THEIR EFFORTS, IT HAS BEEN EXACERBATED

BY THE UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE OF FORCES EXTERNAL TO THAT COUNTRY. THIS FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT ON THE PART OF MAJOR AND OTHER POWERS CONSTITUTES A THREAT NOT ONLY TO ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE AND AFRICAN UNITY BUT ALSO TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. IT WAS IN FULL REALIZATION OF THIS FACT THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CALLING UPON ALL OF THE COUNTRIES PROVIDING MILITARY AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO THE FACTIONS TO DESIST THEREFROM SINCE SUCH ASSISTANCE WOULD ONLY CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO THE PROLONGATION OF THE SUFFERING OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE.

FURTHERMORE, THIS IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL REASONS WHY LIBERIA HAS NOT RECOGNIZED ANY OF THE FACTIONS WHICH CLAIM TO BE REPRESENTING THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. FOR WE REMAIN PERSUADED THAT ONLY A GOVERNMENT OF A NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, A GOVERNMENT WHICH EMBODIES ALL OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE IN THEIR UNITY AND SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE CAN BE THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF ANOLA. TO THIS CONVICTION WE REMAIN COMMITTED. AND THIS IS WHY WE HAVE BEEN HEARTENED TO LEARN THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT SHARES A SIMILAR VIEW ON THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION.

AS YOU HAVE NOTED, WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE FORTHCOMING SUMMIT OF THE OAU WHICH WILL CONVENE NEXT WEEK IN ETHIOPIA IN ORDER TO ENDEAVOUR TO EVOLVE A FORMULA THAT WILL END THE CONFLICT AND BRING PEACE TO ANGOLA. ALTHOUGH I WILL NOT ATTEND THE SUMMIT IN PERSON DUE TO URGENT MATTERS ASSOCIATED WITH MY INAUGURATION AND THE FORMATION OF MY NEW GOVERNMENT, I WILL, NONETHELESS, BE REPRESENTED BY A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION HEADED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA, THE HONOURABLE JAMES E. GREENE.

BASICALLY, WE CONSIDER A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN ANGOLA TO BE BASED ON PROPOSALS THAT WILL LEAD TO A NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SOLUTION. AND WE SHALL CLEARLY ADVOCATE THIS APPROACH AT THE FORTHCOMING OAU MEETING: A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD SEEK TO ACHIEVE, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AND AN END TO ALL HOSTILITIES BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED IN THE CONFLICT; A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES, MILITARY AND PARA-MILITARY, INCLUDING THE MASSIVE SUPPLY OF ARMS; THE COMING TOGETHER OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE MOVEMENTS

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FO ANGOLA; AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. WE ARE HAPPY TO NOTE THAT THIS APPROACH APPEARS TO BE IN CONSONANCE WITH YOUR OWN THINKING ON THIS GRAVE AND SERIOUS MATTER. WE ALSO COMMEND YOU IN YOUR EFFORTS THAT SEEK TO OBTAIN A WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET AND ALL FOREIGN FORCES, INCLUDING THOSE OF SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH HAVE INTERVENED IN THE FRATRICIDAL CONFLICT IN ANGOLA. WE WISH FOR YOU SUCCESS IN THESE INITIATIVES.

I FULLY WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EXCHANGE OF VIEW WITH
YOU ON THIS URGENT MATTER AS I ENTERTAIN THE HOPE THAT BEFORE
LONG A JUST AND ENDURING SOLUTION TO THIS VEXING PROBLEM
CAN BE FORTHCOMING.

IT IS MY FERVENT HOPE THAT IN THE NEW YEAR AT HAND, THE
ENLIVENING JOYS OF THE PAST YULETIDE WILL GENERATE AN INSATIABLE
AWARENESS OF THE URGENT NEED FOR CLOSER HUMAN CONTACT SO THAT
EARNEST COMMUNICATION CAN ENSUE, AND THESE JOYS WILL ENGENDER
FOR MANKIND EVERYWHERE GENUINE UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION
FOR OUR ONE WORLD'S PROBLEMS IN THE INTEREST OF LASTING PEACE
AND PROGRESS HERE ON EARTH.

WITH SENTIMENTS OF HIGHEST ESTEEM AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR
PERSONAL WELL-BEING AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. SINCERELY, W.R. TOLBERT, JR.
END QUOTE.
BEAN

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